

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: LICENSING OF US LAUNCHER TECHNOLOGY FOR
MANUFACTURE IN EUROPE

REF: LONDON 3318

IN REPLY TO ECONMIN LETTER (REFTEL) WHICH OUTLINED US
CONDITIONS FOR LICENSED PRODUCTION OF SPACE LAUNCHERS,
MIN AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING HESELTINE HAS WRITTEN TO
INDICATE HE WOULD LIKE FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON A NUMBER
OF QUESTIONS. THESE QUESTIONS, WHICH WERE TRANSMITTED
UNDER COVER OF LETTER FROM J. R. STEELE, UNDER SECRETARY
FOR SPACE, DTI, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. INTEREST IS CENTERED ON THE DELTA 2914 LAUNCH
VEHICLE, INCLUDING ITS SOLID BOOSTERS AND INERTIAL
GUIDANCE SYSTEM. IS THERE ANY PART OF THIS VEHICLE FOR
WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE
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LICENCE MANUFACTURE IN EUROPE, SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATION OF COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMPANIES CONCERNED?

2. WOULD THE US GOVERNMENT ALSO AUTHORISE THE TRANSFER OF THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL DATA, MANUFACTURING, TESTING AND (ASSUMING LAUNCH AWAY FROM A US RANGE) LAUNCHING TEAM KNOW- HOW, TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH A LEARNING PHASE?

3. WHAT WOULD BE THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE USE OF VEHICLES MANUFACTURED UNDER SUCH A LICENSING AGREEMENT?

4. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF A MORE POWERFUL VERSION OF DELTA (ABLE TO PUT SOME 2000 LB INTO TRANSFER ORBIT) BECOMING AVAILABLE, WHETHER AS A NASA INITIATIVE OR AS A MAINLY COMMERCIAL OPERATION? WOULD THE ANSWERS TO 1 TO 3 ABOVE APPLY EQUALLY TO THIS VERSION?

5. WHAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD THERE BE ON THE GRANTING OF LICENCES FOR PRODUCTION OF ATLAS- CENTAUR ON THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE?

STEELE INTENDS VISIT WASHINGTON FIRST WEEK IN MAY WITH ESRO TEAM TO DISCUSS SPACELAB AND COULD EXPLORE LAUNCHER LICENSING QUESTIONS FURTHER AT THAT TIME.

EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE TO FOREGOING QUESTIONS. COPIES OF HESELTINE AND STEELE LETTERS POUCHED SCI AND EUR/ NE.

SOHM

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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